

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted supplementary to the previous Amendment and in connection with the interview with the Examiners.

The Examiners highly beneficial cooperation during the interview has been gratefully acknowledged. During the interview the issue was raised about the term "converge" which was considered to be not descriptive property of the present invention.

In connection with this, applicants have amended claims 12 and 13 to more clearly define the present invention. In particular, in the present invention as defined now in claims 12 and 13 and shown specifically in the drawings, for example Figures 2 and 3, the crests of the teeth of the wheel discs 13 and 14 are inclined toward the corresponding face 15 radially inwardly.

Claim 14 and 15 additionally define that the crests of the teeth of the wheel discs 13 or 14 on the one hand and the crests of the teeth of the wheel disc 12 on the other hand are inclined toward one another radially inwardly.

It is believed that this language clearly defines the present invention. The Examiner is respectfully requested to approve this language; and applicants will be pleased to amend the specification correspondingly, if necessary.

The references applied by the Examiner against the original claims, namely the patent to Voigtlander teaches a gear wheel which does not disclose the new features of the present invention as now defined in claims 12-15. As can be seen from Figure 3, the crests of the teeth 10 and 12 are inclined toward the interfaces between the side wheel discs and the central wheel disc radially outwardly. In contrast, as specified herein above, the crests of the teeth of the wheel discs 13 and 14 of the spur-toothed wheel of the worm gear of the applicant's invention are inclined toward the interfaces 15 and also toward the crests of the teeth of the wheel disc 12 radially inwardly. This greatly increases the effective contact surface between the teeth of the spur-toothed wheel and the teeth of the worm.

It is therefore believed to be clear that the new features of the present invention which are now defined in claims 12-15 are not disclosed in the patent to Voigtlander and also can not be derived from it as a matter of obviousness. It is believed that a person skilled in the art would not find

any hint or suggestion to arrive at the applicant's invention from the teaching of the patent to Voigtlander because the patent to Voigtlander is not related in any way a worm gear. Moreover, a person skilled in the art who familiarized himself with the teaching of the patent to Voigtlander would have, in order to arrive at the applicant's invention to design the teeth with tooth crests which are exactly opposite to what is proposed in the patent of the Voigtlander, in order to arrive at the applicant's invention.

In view of the above presented remarks and amendments, reconsideration and allowance of the present application is most respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place this case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment, and the case be passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, he is invited to telephone the undersigned (at 631-549-4700).

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Striker
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 27233